

SITUATION REPORT NO. 6
INCIDENT NO. 2002-009
DATE: June 24, 2002 TIME: 4:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Severe Summer Storms – Severe thunderstorms produced heavy rain, gusty winds and hail.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: A low-pressure system moved slowly across the state this weekend, bringing heavy rains, gusty winds and up to 2.75-inch hail. Forecasters for the National Weather Service (NWS) in Bismarck indicated that the storm moved from Montana into North Dakota on Friday, June 21, and primarily impacted the northern tier of the state. Storms on Saturday, June 22, affected the central and southern portions. On Sunday, June 23, storms generated large hail and two tornadoes, one north of Bismarck in Burleigh County and another near Velva in McHenry County. Initial reports indicate these tornadoes caused minimal damage. On Monday, June 24, the system was moving from eastern North Dakota into Minnesota. The forecast for the remainder of the week calls for hot and dry conditions.

The N.D. Department of Transportation reported N.D. Highway 1 was closed from Pekin to Lakota due to water over the roadway.

On June 22, heavy rainfall caused additional water drainage into Stump Lake, according to local officials from Nelson County. The lake measured 1,412.73 feet on June 21 and 1,413.3 feet on June 24. Nelson County deputies reported two to six inches of water across N.D. Highway 1 at Stump Lake, 13 miles south of Lakota. Officers directed motorists to use an alternate route, and that information was broadcast over the Devils Lake radio stations. The storm generated up to 2.5 inches of rain in some areas of the county. The NWS reported hail size ranged from 1.5 inches near Michigan and six miles north of Michigan, to dime size near Dahlen and Tolna.

In Ramsey County, this weekend's heavy rainfall contributed total June rainfall of 4.72 in Devils Lake, 4.78 inches southwest of Lakota, nine inches southeast of Starkweather and 5.82 inches at the Leeds Airport. Soils in the Devils Lake area are highly saturated. Approximately 10 people have reported problems with wet basements. NWS hydrologists reported recent rainfall and strong winds have produced short-term rises in lake levels. Devils Lake had risen to 1,447.4 inches on June 24; the level on June 21 was 1,447.26 feet.

In far northeastern North Dakota, southern Walsh County received two to four inches of rain this weekend, and Pembina County recorded up to 2.35 inches in some areas. In Cavalier County, rainfall amounts this weekend in Langdon totaled 1.22 inches.

Grand Forks County officials expect the Red River of the North to rise this week, based on reports that 12 inches of rain fell in the Mahnomen, MN, area. This rainfall will impact the Wild Rice River, which empties into the Red River. A NWS forecast

calls for the river to crest between 34 and 35 feet on June 29-30 in Grand Forks; flood stage is 28 feet.

A seven-day forecast by the Grand Forks Office of the NWS indicated that runoff will cause steady rises during the next few days along the Red River, from Drayton downstream to Pembina. At Oslo, the river is expected to approach 32 feet on Monday, July 1; flood stage is 28 feet. At Drayton, the river is forecast to drop to approximately 31 feet and begin rising to 34 feet by July 1. Flood stage is 32 feet. At Pembina, the river will also fall before rising again. The forecast calls for the river to drop to a level between 38 to 39 feet on Friday, June 28, and to rise to 40 feet by July 1. Flood stage is 42 feet. A continued rise in river levels is expected after July 1.

In Morton County, storm activity on June 23 generated pea to golf ball size hail in Hebron and up to three-inch hail in Mandan. Up to one-half inch of rain was recorded in Mandan, as well as tree and vehicle damages. Officials received several reports of an unconfirmed funnel cloud with 70 mile per hour (mph) winds.

On June 23, Kidder County officials reported pea to marble size hail and one-half inches of rain fell within a 10-minute period.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: The Red River Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross has opened a total of 12 assistance cases in Grand Forks County and one in Nelson County.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The Ramsey County Commission issued a flood emergency declaration on June 24 because of excessive summer rains and high winds, which are eroding the Devils Lake shoreline.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No assistance is requested at this time.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: Utility crews are repairing damaged infrastructure.

9. OTHER: Appropriate state, local and private entity emergency operations plans and procedures have been implemented.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director